



PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM 2026-2027

INTRODUCTION AND GUIDELINES

The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) Center is committed to research for healthy workers, strong communities, and productive agriculture. Our mission is to conduct research and promote best practices in safety and health for Northwest producers, workers, and communities in farming, fishing, and forestry (AgFF). Our approach includes:

- Collaborating with employers, workers, agencies, and a wide range of research and service organizations,
- Conducting innovative research and intervention programs that prioritize practical, evidence-based solutions, and
- Delivering effective solutions to workplaces and communities through training, outreach, and participatory research.

Priority Areas

The PNASH Pilot Program awards up to \$30,000 to recipients and prioritizes academic researchers, especially new investigators and trainees. Projects should address the prevention of AgFF injuries and illnesses to enhance safety and health in Pacific Northwest communities.

PNASH provides investigators with opportunities to:

- Develop preliminary data and/or expertise to support new proposals,
- Adapt or evaluate proven tools or techniques for new populations, workplaces, or delivery methods,
- Evaluate the merit of new ideas or new approaches to existing methodologies or datasets,
- Explore new directions in research, prevention/intervention, and education/translation,
- Apply their expertise to the field of AgFF safety and health, and
- Leverage emerging technologies in supporting a healthy, safe, and productive AgFF workplace.

Successful applications should include clear plans to pursue future funding and to identify relevant agencies, organizations, or grant mechanisms that can leverage pilot project data to address the needs of agricultural workers in the Pacific Northwest.

Additionally, the PNASH Pilot Program prioritizes meritorious projects that expand PNASH's work in the AgFF sector and those that support early-stage investigators.

The review criteria for academic-track applications emphasize scientific rigor, innovation, and the potential to secure future funding. Academic-track projects should have at least one well-defined research question focused on preventing illness or injury resulting from agricultural work exposures. Many topics and research types (i.e., basic/etiologic, surveillance, intervention, research translation) will be considered; however, applicants must describe how their projects address NIOSH priority goals for [Extramural Research Priorities](#) within the AgFF sector, and/or the [National Occupational Research Agenda \(NORA\) for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing](#).

Eligibility

Investigators must have a strong interest in AgFF workers' health and safety or work in complementary or cross-disciplinary fields. The principal investigator (PI) should be affiliated with an institution within HHS Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington), but collaborations with researchers outside the region are encouraged when their expertise is essential to the project.

Eligible applicants include:

- Trainees and early-stage investigators (e.g., post-docs, occupational medicine residents, fellows, graduate students) who are interested in advanced training in occupational health and safety research. Trainees must list a qualifying advisor or mentor.
- Investigators from other disciplines or institutions are seeking to develop innovative research efforts in collaboration with PNASH Center faculty.
- PNASH Center investigators proposing new research directions or topics not previously studied.
- Regional stakeholders working with eligible faculty members.
- Previous Pilot Project awardees seeking new research directions (these applicants will also be evaluated based on the productivity of prior awarded projects).

Deadlines and Awards

Complete applications will be received **no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2026**. The pilot grant awards funding period is for a duration of twelve (12) months, with the project period beginning on November 1, 2026 and ending on September 29, 2027. **Projects must be completed by September 29, 2027, with final reports submitted by November 30, 2027. See *Awardee Post-Award Management*.**

Applicants may request funding up to \$30,000 in direct costs. *See Funding and Budget Considerations for additional details.* Please note that PNASH has already allocated indirect costs to UW, so applicants from UW are not required to include indirect costs in their budgets. Non-UW applicants are required to include indirect costs at their institution's negotiated federal indirect cost rate.

Please note: All pilot grant awards are contingent on the continued availability of NIOSH-allocated funds to PNASH.

The release of funds to PNASH Pilot Program applicants is contingent upon compliance with federal regulations. Investigators are encouraged to initiate as soon as possible any applicable human subjects research determination and/or review processes with an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Please contact Paulina Osinska (osinsp@uw.edu), PNASH Center Manager, with any questions regarding IRB procedures.

Timeline of Award	Date
Proposals are due	October 1, 2026
Earliest funding start date	November 1, 2026
Progress report due	March 1, 2027
Completion of funded small grants project	September 29, 2027
Final report due	November 30, 2027

Funding And Budget Considerations

Each project may request up to \$30,000 in direct costs.

PNASH awards small research grants (pilot project grants) of up to \$30,000 annually through a competitive process. Successful applications should present clear plans for pursuing future funding, including identification of agencies, organizations, or grant mechanisms that will leverage data collected in the pilot project to address the needs of AgFF workers in the Pacific Northwest.

A budget and budget justification should be prepared in accordance with CDC Budget Preparation Guidelines. Learn more about the [CDC Budget Preparation Guidelines](#). Budgets should not exceed \$30,000 in direct costs,

- Budgets should prioritize implementing the proposed programming/resource development.
- Applicants from the University of Washington do not need to include indirect costs
- Applicants from outside of the University of Washington are required to include indirect costs

Direct costs are those explicitly allocated to the project, including salaries and fringe for project team members, supplies, equipment, data collection and analysis, and travel associated with executing the project. However, no meeting or conference travel can be covered unless attendance is required to perform project activities. Additional information should be provided within the budget justification for select items of cost, including:

- Equipment costing more than \$5,000 must be project-specific, fully justified, directly allocable to the project, and necessary for the completion of the aims.
- Technological/IT equipment (e.g., computers, iPads, phones, wearable devices, and the like) – must be project-specific, fully justified, directly allocable to the project, and necessary for completion of aims.
- Software or software licenses – must be project-specific and necessary for completion of aims.

Research-related food/meals – must be directly related to completion of aims; food for meetings/conferences is not allowed. Principal investigators are strongly encouraged to contact Paulina Osinska (osinsp@uw.edu) for additional guidance in preparing budgets.

Indirect costs are allowed at the applicant's negotiated federal indirect cost rate. If the applicant does not have a negotiated cost rate agreement, you may request the federal de minimums of 15%, per CFR 200.414. Indirect costs are only required for non-UW applications.

Review Process

Pilot project applications will be evaluated by PNASH Leadership, with consultation from external subject matter experts as necessary. A written critique will be provided to the principal investigators of all pilot grant applications deemed responsive to this request for proposals, regardless of funding decision. *See Review Criteria Guidelines on page 12.*

Reporting Requirements

The principal investigator of each funded project is required to provide the following reports:

- Mid-project – brief written progress report (approximately halfway through the project period)
- Final – detailed final project progress report (approximately one (1) month after the end of the project)

- Annual impact survey – for four years following project completion, the principal investigator will be asked to complete a brief survey evaluating the ongoing impact of the funded project. The survey will ask about (1) long-term outcomes, (2) presentations, publications, or other products resulting from the project not previously reported, (3) professional collaborations established as a result of PNASH support, and (4) additional grants and contracts resulting from the project (i.e., that project results led to or supported an application for funding).

Publications

Funded investigators will receive detailed instructions on completing the required reports listed above. Publications, journal articles, presentations, and similar works relating to PNASH-supported pilot projects are required to include the following statement: “This [publication, journal article, presentation, etc.] was supported, in part, by grant number **U54OH007544** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the CDC, NIOSH, *or the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center.*

To comply with the CDC’s public access policy, all peer-reviewed manuscripts resulting from PNASH funding MUST be deposited into PubMed Central using the NIH Manuscript Submission system.

Pilot Project Proposal Application Page Count Advisory Table	
APPLICATION CONTENT	Required Pages
Cover Letter - On letterhead, dated and signed - Project Title - Narrative of one to three sentences about project and potential impact	1
Front Cover Page - Project Title Table - Project Narrative - Key Personnel and Brief Collaborators Summary - Project Timeline Summary - Budget Summary - Specific Aims Summary - Abstract/Project Summary (300 words)	3
Body Of Application	
A. Research Plan - Objectives and Specific Aims - Background and Significance - Methodology - Potential Impact - Collaborative Arrangements	3
B. References (Hyperlinks recommended)	1
C. Budget and Budget Justification Budget Justification – required	Pages as needed
D. Timeline and milestones	1
E. Biosketch(es) Access the NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form	5 pages per Biosketch
F. Letters of Support If PI is a student/trainee, the application must include a letter of support from their faculty advisor.	Pages as needed
G. Outcome Metrics Table Download an Outcome Metrics Table template Learn more about the PNASH Evaluation Guide	Pages as needed
H. Resources	Requested
Appendix Items may include draft surveys/questionnaires, background information on web tools or smartphone apps, training materials, maps, etc. Note, however, that reviewers are not required to read appendices.	Optional
Human Subjects and Animal Care Committee Approvals	Compliance or Plan of Action



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APPLICATION COVER PAGE FORM (3 Pages)

Project Title		
Principal Investigator		
Name		
Title		
Department		
Address		
Phone		
Email		
Funding Period	Start Date:	End Date:

Project Narrative

Provide three sentences that describe your proposed project. Learn more about the NIH Guidelines on How to Apply for a Grant.

Key Personnel and Brief Collaborators Summary

PERIOD	PROJECT TIMELINE SUMMARY TABLE
Autumn	
Winter	
Spring	
Summer	

BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE		
Direct Costs (up to \$30k):	\$	
Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are allowed at the applicant's negotiated federal indirect cost rate agreement. If applicant does not have a negotiated cost rate agreement, you may request the federal de minimums of 15%, per CFR 200.414. F&A only required for non-UW applications		
Indirect Rate:	\$	
Indirect Costs:	\$	

Will Human Subjects approval be required?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are any additional approvals or training required to complete the proposed research? (e.g., Animal subjects, radiation safety, biological hazards, etc.)

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, which are required, and which training have you and/or your team received?

For applicants outside of the UW, a maximum amount of 15% F&A costs will be awarded. For UW applicants, F&A costs have already been covered.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Specific Aims Summary

(Bullet point specific aims.)

Other NIH Specific Aims page guidance:

- [Learn more about the NIH Quick Guide for Grant Applications.](#)
- [Learn more about NIH Grant Application: The Anatomy of a Specific Aims Page](#)

Abstract/Project Summary

(limited to 300 words)

Describe the proposed project and how it relates to the Goals of the PNASH Center; [view the PNASH website](#). You should also review the specific priorities relevant to the Northwest or National Occupational Research Agendas; links can be found on page 13.

END COVER PAGE

Please send completed applications to judy13@uw.edu.



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APPLICATION FORMAT

BODY OF THE APPLICATION

A. Research Plan (Maximum 3 pages).

A concise research plan following the guidelines outlined below:

- Objective and Specific Aims¹: State the overall objective or long-term goal and the specific aims of the project.
- Background and Significance: Briefly review relevant literature describing the current knowledge in this field. Identify PNASH Center Goals and Strategic Goals which your study addresses as well as its relevance to Northwest AgFF. See Priorities. If the study does not directly address Northwest AgFF or Strategic Goal, state the evidence that supports your decision to investigate the issue.
- Methodology: Provide a concise and thorough discussion of the proposed methods, including the study design, involved populations, data collection, and means employed to analyze or interpret the data to attain your objectives. Include a discussion of the proposed method's limitations. A timetable for completion of the project should be provided. Include, if appropriate, a discussion of pitfalls you might encounter and the limitations of procedures you propose to use.
- Potential Impact/Potential for Future Funding²: Explain how the information gathered during this project will form the basis for future studies, including impact on equity. Please also outline possible future sources of funding. Be as specific as possible, but whether you reference an RFA, Government Initiative, or Agency briefly explain how future projects fit the research objectives of the potential funding source.
- Collaborative Arrangements: If applicable, provide a description of the collaboration that will occur with other institutions, community organizations, or any group whose cooperation is essential. A letter indicating the institution or organization's willingness to participate should be included in the Appendix.

B. References (Hyperlinks recommended – Maximum 1 Page)

¹ See [NIH Grants & Funding – Write Application](#), [NIH Grants & Funding – General Grant Writing Tips](#), and [NIH Grants & Funding – Write Application – Advice on Application Sections – Specific Aims](#).

² See [Burden, Need and Impact: An Evidence-Based Method to Identify Worker Safety and Health Research Priorities](#) to describe how the project addresses [NIOSH Priority Goals for Extramural Research in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing \(AgFF\)](#) and/or the [NIOSH NORA Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Research Agenda](#).

C. Budget and Budget Justification (Pages as needed)³

- Budgets cannot exceed \$30,000.
- Budgets should prioritize implementing the proposed programming/resource development.
- Indirect costs do not need to be included.
- The budget should show the effort of all people, paid and unpaid, who will carry out the activities. This should be followed by a justification page explaining the roles and duties of each individual.
- Administrative salaries cannot be covered.
- Equipment will be supported only if tied directly to the project, and equipment costs may not exceed \$30,000 unless permission is granted in advance.
- If the proposal is partially funded by other sources (in-kind support), please specify the source and amount of support.
- In accordance with UW's direct buy limit, payments to consultants may not exceed \$10,000 unless a sole source justification has been provided.

D. Timeline and milestones (Maximum 1 page)

E. Biosketches (Pages as Needed – 5 pages per Biosketch)

- Biosketches are required for the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators, and optional for key personnel. [Download the NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form now.](#)

F. Letters of Support (Pages as Needed)

- Your application should include letters of support from your institution, key personnel, collaborators, and other significant contributors. Relevant letters of support will assure your peer reviewers that your collaborations and institutional commitments are on the right track.

G. Outcome Metrics Table (Pages as Needed)

- PNASH participates in the center-wide program monitoring, tracking progress, activities, and products. To assist with these goals, all applicants must include a project-specific matrix with their final proposal. The metrics table should include short-term outcomes, indicators, and potential sources of information. [Download an Outcome Metrics Table template now.](#) [Learn more about the PNASH Evaluation Guide.](#) Please contact the PNASH Center if you have any questions regarding the development of this component.

H. Resources (Requested)

- Provide a detailed description of the facilities, major equipment, and other resources that will support your proposed research. If you plan to use PNASH Outreach or Communications Resources, specify how you will use them. Include the nature, extent, and any relevant supporting details for such resource utilization.

³ Use budget form Public Health Service Grant Application 398 (PHS 398), [Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period](#). Your budget and budget justification should be prepared in accordance with [CDC Budget Preparation Guidelines](#). A template with application materials can be found at the [Community Initiated Grants](#).

I. Appendix (Optional)

- Items may include draft surveys/questionnaires, background information on web tools or smartphone apps, training materials, maps, etc. Note, however, that reviewers are not required to read appendices. However, if appropriate, you may attach *samples* of the types of questions or formats, etc., that you will be using in your study to supplement your methodology component of the research plan.

J. Human Subjects and Animal Care Committee Approvals (Proof of compliance or Required Plan of Action for compliance)

- Funded projects involving human subjects and animals must obtain approval from the appropriate committee before funding is released. If the award is external to the University of Washington (UW), and does not involve any UW employees or facilities, and the grantee's institution has an accredited IRB, then the UW-IRB has waived the need to review these protocols. Otherwise, the UW-IRB handles all Human Subjects and Animal Care protocols.

K. Application Submission Procedure

- Email both the signed cover letter and one complete PDF version of the full proposal to judy13@uw.edu. When submitting your application, you must:
 - Include in the subject line of the pilot project submission email: "PNASH Pilot Project Submission."
 - From the Program Coordinator, receive an email confirming receipt of your email. If you have not received this email within two (2) business days, email the PNASH Pilot Project Director, Elena Austin, at elaustin@uw.edu.

YOUR APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED IF YOU DO NOT GET A CONFIRMATION EMAIL.



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REVIEW CRITERIA GUIDELINES

The same review and evaluation guidelines will be applied to Pilot Project Proposal Applications and requests for Education/Translation Supplements. Partnerships, dissemination plans, and demonstrated ability to produce impactful end products will weigh heavily when considering supplement requests.

Submitted proposals are distributed to one internal PNASH investigator whose area of interest aligns with the proposed research as well as one to two external investigators recruited from other NIOSH Ag Centers and NIOSH-funded ERC or Total Worker Health Centers. Reviewers are asked to score each proposal using an NIH-style score sheet and consider the criteria below. PNASH leadership then performs programmatic review of scored proposals to select successful applicants.

Significance

Is the specific question being asked relevant and important to stakeholders and not already answered elsewhere? Does the project align with the PNASH Center and Strategic Goals for agriculture, forestry, and fishing? What is the seriousness of the hazard, exposure numbers, and the likelihood that this intervention will make a difference? Is the project likely to improve the health and safety of Pacific Northwest producers, workers, and their families? Does the project duplicate or overlap with existing training and translation efforts in the region or products/programs developed elsewhere for this target population?

Investigator(s) qualifications

Is the investigator well qualified to undertake the work described in the project? Does the investigator have appropriate backgrounds, or have they obtained adequate advice from other senior investigators? Early career investigators are encouraged to lead pilot projects, but they should have a capable advisor identified to assist them.

Innovation

Does this project represent new and creative approaches to a problem? Is the approach interdisciplinary? Will the project engage new communities in the Pacific Northwest region? Does this project meet an existing need within their defined community or worker population, and is this need demonstrated with supporting data?

Approach

Does the project have clearly stated aims and a well-defined study design/program plan? Are the engagement, data collection, and education approaches appropriate? Does the proposal explain how the results or products will influence practice and sustained adoption? Does the proposal discuss limitations or pitfalls that might be encountered? Are sufficient time and personnel budgeted to achieve what is set forth in the proposal? Are proposed collaborations properly documented (i.e., letters from collaborators)? If an education project, has the applicant demonstrated adequate capacity and qualifications to effectively achieve their education goals?

If a translation study, is a research-to-practice (r2p) strategy included as a specific aim? Has the applicant demonstrated industry-specific knowledge and cultural and linguistic understanding of the target worker population?

Future funding potential

Is the project likely to develop valid preliminary evidence, products, or a program to support future proposals for outside funding? Does the proposal identify potential future sources of funding for research or dissemination?

Overall effectiveness and impact

In a summary score, please indicate your overall impression of this proposal taking into consideration what has been asked above and any other factors you consider relevant. The summary score is not a simple average of the five categories listed above. It should reflect your final judgment of the quality of the proposal.

Priorities

Relevance to PNASH Center and Strategic Goals

Proposals should specifically name which agenda they seek to demonstrate relevance. Goals of the PNASH Center; [view the PNASH website](#). You should also review the specific priorities relevant to the Northwest or National Occupational Research Agendas.

- [Learn more about the NIOSH Strategic Plan.](#)
- [Learn more about the NORA AgFF Research Agenda.](#)
- [Learn about the Total Worker Health Program.](#)
- [Review the Future of Work Initiative Research Agenda.](#)
- [Learn about the American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan.](#)
- [Read about Gold Standard Science at HHS.](#)

Projects that do not address needs identified above should provide justification with evidence from epidemiological, clinical, or industrial sources.

Collaborative Research

Collaborations between institutions and affected communities in Region 10, as well as with the PNASH Center, are encouraged. Proposals will be reviewed on the merit of new and creative approaches that are ideally interdisciplinary, and whose outcomes will result in projects involving more than one investigator or community. Please submit letters of support with your final proposal.

Research to Practice (r2p)

Each proposal should describe how the final results and products will influence practice and promote best practices. Research projects may highlight publications, national presentations, and plans for submitting a full proposal. For intervention projects, your r2p strategy should be included as a specific aim. For education projects, r2p is your overall goal. For information on NIOSH's r2p initiatives, learn about [NIOSH Research to Practice](#).

Evaluation Component

Required for all projects. All projects should evaluate the extent to which the project met the stated aims. Intervention projects seeking to reduce injury or illness should include an evaluation component that addresses outreach goals or feasible intermediate measures of impact achievable within the project period.



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GRANT POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

Records Maintenance

Records of all letters of intent, pre-proposals, and final proposals, as well as correspondence regarding the review process, grant-making, and final actions, are maintained within the PNASH hardcopy files and computer server system, which is regularly backed up and archived at an offsite location. All materials received in hard copy are scanned and stored on this system. All records are available to NIOSH upon request.

Human Subjects IRB (or other protections)

Funded projects involving human subjects and animals must obtain approval from the UW-IRB or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before funding is released. If the award is external to the UW, does not involve any UW employees or facilities, and the grantee's institution has an accredited IRB and IACUS, then the UW accepts the grantee's institution review.

The PNASH IAC is composed of senior researchers with extensive experience in Human Subjects and Animal research. However, if any questions arise about whether a particular project requires IRB or Animal Care review, we facilitate connecting the applicant with the appropriate oversight office, direct personnel to training, and work with investigators to ensure that all required training and approvals are in place before activities begin.

Fiscal Responsibilities

External applicants must begin billing within ninety (90) days of contract receipt and must submit bills at least quarterly and no more frequently than monthly. External Institutions are required to submit final financial status reports no later than sixty (60) days after the end of the award period.

Communications

Acknowledge funding support in publications and presentations resulting from the award with ***"Supported by the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (NOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #5 U54OH007544-22-00)."***

Reporting & Evaluation

All PNASH Pilot Program projects are required to submit an annual progress report and a final scientific report. Manuscripts for submission for peer-reviewed publication and student thesis reports can be submitted in lieu of a final report. Annual reports are due in early September, and PNASH will send a request with submission guidelines for reporting on activities, results, or outcomes (publications, presentations, independent grant applications, SOPs, websites, etc.). In addition, PIs of Pilot Projects are asked to share their results and progress (as appropriate) in both internal and external forums, including, but not limited to, PNASH quarterly Investigator Meetings (in person or virtually), newsletters, and national conferences. The final report also requires the investigator to present their findings to the Internal Advisory Committee.

If you have questions about how the criteria should be applied or interpreted, contact Judy Lysiak, judy13@uw.edu.